

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OES-03 IO-10 AID-05

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FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE NIACT 8142

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MFM, TGEN, XM, UY

SUBJECT: MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS WORKING GROUPS

REF: (A) MVD 321 (B) STATE 21495

FOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY BOWDLER

1. DCM MET AT FONMINISTRY MORNING JAN. 31 WITH SUB-
SECRETARY MICHELIN AND DR. JORGE ALVAREZ WHO HEADS GOU
DELEGATION TO WGSTT IN MONTEVIDEO. DCM REPEATED INFORMATION
PASSED BY PHONE TO MICHELIN ON JAN. 30 DRAWN FROM REF. (B).
DCM ALSO INFORMED MICHELIN AND ALVAREZ OF US VIEWS ON
POSTPONEMENT OF WORKING GROUP ON TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS
SCHEDED FOR FEB. 10.

2. DCM REFERRED TO FACT THAT DEPT'S STATEMENT FOLLOWING
ARGENTINE COMMUNIQUE ANNOUNCING POSTPONEMENT MFM AND
EXCERPTS FROM SECRETARY'S PRESS CONFERENCE ON LATIN AMERICA
HAD BEEN TRANSMITTED TO FONMINISTER BLANCO ON JAN. 28 AND
30 RESPECTIVELY. DCM NOTED DISAPPOINTMENT OF USG THAT
BA-MFM HAD BEEN POSTPONED AND STATED ATTITUDE OF LATIN
AMERICA AS EXPRESSED IN ARGENTINE COMMUNIQUE HAD LED
US TO CONCLUSION THAT PREFERABLE TO POSTPONE WGSTT UNTIL
FUTURE OF NEW DIALOGUE CLARIFIED. DCM WENT ON TO SAY --
CHARACTERIZING THEM AS PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS -- THAT SINCE
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BOTH WORKING GROUPS FLOW FROM AND RELATE DIRECTLY TO MFM

ITSELF, OUR ATTITUDE SHOULD BE MORE
UNDERSTANDABLE. IF
CONDITIONS NOT CONDUCIVE TO HOLDING MFM, THEN EQUALLY
UNDERSTANDABLE WE SHOULD BELIEVE THERE IS LITTLE UTILITY IN
WORKING GROUP MEETINGS AT THIS TIME.

3. FINALLY, DCM LAID STRESS ON FACT THAT OUR DECISION WITH
RESPECT WGSTT MEETING HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH URUGUAY. ON
CONTRARY, DCM HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED PASS ON TO FONMIN BLANCO
DEPT'S DEEP APPRECIATION FOR HIS AND GOU'S CONSTRUCTIVE AND
POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARDS MFM AND NEW DIALOGUE IN GENERAL.
WE HOPED WE COULD CONTINUE BE ABLE WORK TOGETHER IN
FUTURE IN SAME POSITIVE WAY.

4. ALVAREZ REPLIED THAT HE REGRETTED OUR DECISION NOT
PARTICIPATE, BUT THAT OBVIOUSLY ONE FOR US TO DETERMINE
BASED ON OUR APPRECIATION OF SITUATION. HE WANTED AMBASSADOR
BOWDLER TO KNOW THAT HE HAD FOUND POSITIVE ATTITUDE IN
PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS WITH DELEGATIONS HERE, INCLUDING
BRAZIL. HE SAID THESE DISCUSSIONS INDICATED THAT ACTION
ALONE THE LINES OF THE GOU POSITION AS DISCUSSED BETWEEN
HIM AND BOWDLER WAS MOST PROBABLE.

5. ALVAREZ REPEATED THAT HE PROFOUNDLY REGRETTED US
DECISION, AND THAT WHILE HE DID NOT AGREE WITH IT --
JUST AS MANY OTHER DELEGATIONS WOULD NOT -- HE NEVERTHELESS
APPRECIATED OPPORTUNITY DISCUSS THE MATTER. HE ADDED
HE WOULD INFORM OTHER DELEGATIONS THIS MORNING OF US
DECISION (GOU HAS NOT YET DONE SO) AND INTENDED SAY HE
HAD BEEN ADVISED OFFICIALLY US WOULD NOT PARTICIPATE
IN WGSTT MEETING BASED ON ITS BELIEF THAT POSTPONEMENT
OF BA-MFM DID NOT MAKE HOLDING OF MEETING OPPORTUNE.
HE SAID HE WOULD ADD THAT GOU DID NOT AGREE WITH US
DECISION NOT TO ATTEND JUST AS GOU DID NOT AGREE WITH
DECISION TO POSTPONE BA-MFM. HE THOUGHT THIS WOULD BE
SUFFICIENT TO AVOID EXTENSIVE QUESTIONING.

6. MICHELIN SAID VERY LITTLE DURING MEETING. STATED
HE WOULD INFORM FONMIN BLANCO AND HE ALSO (MICHELIN)
REGRETTED OUR DECISION. HE MENTIONED THAT "VARIOUS" DEL-
EGATIONS HAD TOLD HIM THAT EVEN WITH POSTPONEMENT BA-
MFM THEY
STILL BELIEVED IMPORTANT CONTINUE WITH DIALOGUE THROUGH
WORKING GROUPS THAT HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED.

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7. IN RESPONSE TO DCM'S QUESTION,
ALVAREZ SAID HE DID
NOT KNOW YET WHETHER WGSTT WOULD BE POSTPONED OR WOULD
CONTINUE AS SCHEDULED. PROBLEM WAS THAT DELEGATIONS
ALREADY HERE, BUT HE WOULD DISCUSS THIS WITH DELEGATIONS
THIS MORNING.

8. ATMOSPHERE WAS CORDIAL, BUT BOTH MICHELIN AND ALVAREZ
OBVIOUSLY DISAPPOINTED WE NOT ATTENDING. DCM BELIEVES,

HOWEVER, THAT THEY UNDERSTAND OUR POSITION ALTHOUGH
WITHOUT ACCEPTING IT FULLY. AT NO TIME IN CONVERSATION
WAS ANY QUESTION RAISED IN RESPONSE TO WHAT DCM SAID.
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